

University of Alaska Southeast

WHALESONG

November 10 – 23, 2014

The Official Student Newspaper of UAS



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ON THE COVER...

The cast of S.C.R.I.P.T's upcoming play, F2M, at rehearsal. Performances will begin this Friday at 7:30 p.m. over in Hendrickson Building. To learn more about this production, turn over to page 7!

(Photograph by Chrystal Randolph)

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— UAS Answers —

Everybody's got one ... What are your plans for this weekend?



"I am meeting my girlfriend's mother this weekend. We're having dinner."

-Parker



"Trying to find a hero that I can model my life after for a very overdue term project."

-Lucy Macey



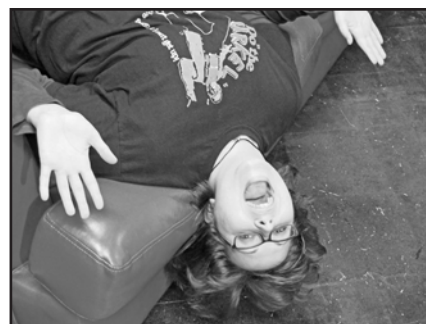
"My wife and I are going to go surprise our child for parent's weekend at her college."

-Clarence Parker



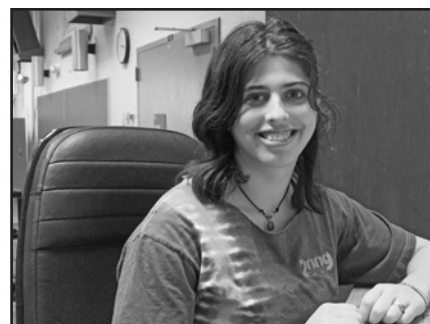
"I'm gonna go visit my daughter this weekend."

-Alice West



"I'm gonna visit my daughter at college and I'm hoping to get a trip to Taco Bell!"

-Linda Lou Macey



"I'll be going over my patient's files."

-Dr. Theresa Shelton

— UAS in Brief —

Campus Safety Update

It's that time of year again. The days are getting shorter and darker. Snow is the forecast, which makes navigation around our campus a little more difficult. While our bears should be tucking themselves away for a long winter's nap, I had a close encounter with a healthy black bear in my front yard recently, and I live just a mile and a half from campus. Stay alert, watch your step, be aware of your surroundings and look out for others.

Speaking of looking out for others, UAS has a new partner in safety. We have recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Juneau Police Department (JPD) to host a substation on campus. While the details are still being finalized, JPD will be using a space in the Egan Classroom Wing as a "base" in Auke Bay. They won't be providing any specific campus security, but we welcome their presence on campus.

Finally, thanks to those of you who welcomed investigators from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to UAS on October 10, 2014. OCR reports a successful visit to the University of Alaska, with campus visits in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Bethel. We will know the results of the visit, focused on assessing response and support to reports and victims of sexual harassment and assault, in the coming months. Stay tuned for more!

—Lori Klein, Campus Conduct Administrator



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— Bielefeld: Before and After —

BY BRITNI WISNER

For the UAS Whalesong

In the semester before I left on my exchange to Bielefeld, Germany, Marsha had a pre-departure orientation for us outgoing students. In addition to finding out where everyone else was going and talking through some paperwork, we did an exercise that was really valuable, although I didn't know how valuable it would be at the time. She had us fill out a simple questionnaire with 4 questions:

- 1) What do you know about the location of the college you are attending?
- 2) What are the stereotypes of the people or the area you will be studying in?
- 3) What do you absolutely not know or understand about the college or location you will be attending?
- 4) What do you want to gain from this international experience?

My answers were simple because I honestly didn't know much about Bielefeld or Germany! I only knew that it was in the northwest and that I was pretty sure it was near a forest. I knew that there was a German joke that the city was an "Area 51" of sorts and many joked that it "didn't exist." The stereotypes that I'd known of were that Germans were serious and disciplined. There was so much that I absolutely didn't understand about Bielefeld! The language was a huge thing I didn't know. I knew some very basic greetings when I arrived, but that was it. I didn't know how the classes "worked" at all, what the course load would be like, or what the social norms would be. I had a good idea of what my living situation would be like, but I didn't know who I would be living with or where. I knew next to nothing! I did know, however, what I wanted to gain from this international experience. First, I wanted to learn a new language and experience life in a different culture and country. I wanted to broaden my perspectives and challenge my own views of the world.

Looking back now at these answers, I have to laugh to (and at) myself. It's funny to remember myself before knowing and falling in love with Germany. Bielefeld is, indeed, in



(Photo provided by Britni Wisner)

the northwest and situated on the Teutoburg Forest—the site of Roman battles with Germanic tribes. It was my favorite place to go running or take a walk in Bielefeld, and the forest (which ranges across two states) was a five minute walk from my apartment. And Bielefeld, an unknown city that "doesn't exist," became my home. As the months went on I found myself comfortable with the city, with its Altstadt (old town), modern shopping center, green parks, and very Juneau-like weather.

(Article continues on page 13)

— Talk Foreign to Me —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

There are lots of reasons for learning to speak another language – maybe it's required by your degree, or you're an accomplished polyglot, or maybe you don't have a particular reason outside of just wanting to have fun and teach yourself something. Either way, anyone setting out to learn a language that is not their primary tongue is in for quite the challenge; the way I see it, school is a challenge enough without one of your extracurricular interests being difficult as well. Bearing that in mind, here are some tips and tricks to help keep your language-learning experience fun and as simple as possible.

One of the first pieces of advice I can think of is to find a native speaker! While having a friend who speaks the language is great, sometimes that's simply not an option – I feel like it's even less so attending school in Alaska, where our student population is not, perhaps, quite as diverse as a bigger school located in the lower 48's might be. So if you don't have a friend who can lovingly correct your pronunciation and teach you slang and swear words, the next best thing is to find a native speaker online! This is doable for free and with minimal searching; plenty of native speakers of foreign languages offer things like YouTube video lessons and podcasts to help people on the Internet get a better grasp of understanding their language. Why these people do this for free, I don't know, but I deeply appreciate them for it. They're like the Khan Academies of the language world – deeply immersed and incredibly helpful.

Another tip is to keep a vocabulary notebook! This is something that I did in high school when I was learning Spanish. At the time, I thought it was kind of pointless – why would I write down my vocabulary books when they were already on the program and in the book? But having your own vocabulary notebook gives you an immediate reference point for words you've learned, as well as the

sense of satisfaction you can gain out of watching it fill up page by page. There's also an information retention side to it – the act of writing things down makes you more likely to remember them than just bookmarking them in a textbook or on a website would.

In relation to keeping a vocabulary notebook is paying attention to the words you learn first. Try Googling "100 most common words in [x] language" and writing them down somewhere. Once you have a basic foundation for the language and know words that will be repeated all the time, it will be easier for you to decipher meaning and basic sentence structures. Figuring out how to count to ten in that language is also an easy and useful way in which you can learn something about the language with minimal study. It's also easy to retain, since you count to 10 (or at least partway there) more often than you think. I wasn't even that interested in my Spanish lessons in high school, but I can still count to ten in Spanish at the very least. Counting, I think, is one of the first things you want to learn because it's one of the last things to go.

A final piece of advice I have if you're a student of a foreign language is, if you can, watch TV in that language! Watch the shows of the culture in their original language with subtitles; another good idea is to watch one of your favorite movies in that language without subtitles. (This is easily doable if your copy of the movie has that translation as an option in the menu.) I'm not saying that you will become fluent instantly, but as a college student, I find that watching TV in the language I'm interested in is the closest I will get to complete immersion, which is the best way to learn a foreign tongue. Plus if it's your favorite movie, you'll know when and what certain lines are, and be able to decode what the actors are saying all by yourself!

That's about all the tips and tricks I have for you right now, since I'm a beginner to this self-taught language lessons thing myself. But all of these things have definitely helped me out, so I hope that you can get some use out of them as well. Until next time, *annyeonghi gaseyo!* ("Goodbye" in Korean)

— Say Goodbye to Grogginess, and Hello to Veggies —

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF

For the UAS Whalesong

A few weeks ago, I was feeling quite off kilter. I wasn't sure what it was, because I was eating meals, sleeping, and keeping busy every day. I couldn't really figure out what was going on. I tried doing less one day, thinking maybe I was starting to run myself ragged; nope, ended up just getting way less done that day and still feeling off. I thought maybe I needed more sleep, but again I just got way less done than I needed to, while still feeling groggy. I changed things up a little and went out to eat with my friends, ordering things that I would always enjoy—then it dawned on me when I realized I wasn't feeling satisfied with the food I was consuming. Food! That was the key.

With this in mind, I went to the store and bought groceries. Not processed food, boxed things, packaged things, or anything like that—I bought vegetables and fruit. And this, my friends, turned my little groggy crisis in life around. So I decided to do some research on what was actually in the vegetables I was eating, and why it was helping me feel less groggy. I'm going to share what I found with you, because I think it's good for us to know how just altering our diet by a few things can have such an impact on everyday life.

First of all, I'd like to say that I got this information from www.nutrition-and-you.com and it is a pretty great site to read about the different foods you are eating and the nutrition that they may or may not give to you. I think all of us have grown up hearing people tell us to eat our vegetables because they are healthy for us. Interestingly enough though, green, yellow, and orange vegetables have an abundance of calcium, magnesium, potassium, iron, betacarotene, vitamin-

B complex, vitamin-C, vitamin-A, and vitamin-K.

Okay, yeah all that is nice, but what do these vitamins and minerals actually do for us?

Well, vitamin-K is good for us because it helps maintain strong bones, and it is essential for our blood's ability to clot. Basically, without vitamin-K we would have limp noodle appendages and dangerously thin blood. Vitamin-A is an important thing to have in your diet because it aids in vision, bone growth, reproduction, cell function, and our immune system. It has been said that vegetarians, young children, and alcoholics should have extra vitamin-A in their diets. Vitamin-A can be found in colorful fruits and vegetables. While it's good we get vitamin-A through those foods, it's also important we get a considerable amount of betacarotene in our diets because it actually provides us with 50 percent of the vitamin A needed in our diet. I love writing about B-complex vitamins because they are the ones that help your body get and produce energy from the foods you eat. They also help form red blood cells in our bodies, so be sure to eat those leafy green vegetables, beans, and peas! Vitamin-C is a dandy thing to have in us too. It is important for our skin, bones, and connective tissues. You can find vitamin-C in red and green peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, and greens. People who are pregnant or breastfeeding, recovering from surgery, burn victims, and smokers are likely to need extra vitamin-C in their diets. Iron is important for us because our bodies need it to function; specifically, we need it for the protein in it that carries oxygen from our lungs throughout our body. Potassium can be found in leafy greens (spinach, collards) and root vegetables (carrots, potatoes). Our body needs potassium so that our nerves and muscles can communicate effectively, and so that we can move nutrients in and waste products out of cells. I was reading on

what magnesium does for our bodies and it does a lot! It helps support a healthy immune system, keeps the heart beat steady, and regulates blood glucose levels. It can be found in peas, beans, vegetables, and many other things. It is definitely something to keep on your dietary needs list! And last but not least, calcium. It too, has tons of important jobs to help our bodies keep going, like having our blood vessels contract and expand, to help secrete hormones and enzymes, and send messages to the nervous system. All very important and just a few of the things calcium (usually found in leafy green vegetables) does for us. Vegetables are also a good source of antioxidants that help protect us from oxidant stress, disease, and cancer, while also helping the body learn to fight against these by boosting immunity. Non-Starch polysaccharides (NSP) are also found in vegetables and that is important for us if we wish to keep our intestines and colon glands running smooth and healthily.

A big thank you to www.nlm.nih.gov for help identifying why all of these vitamins and minerals are good for us. Now that we know what we are consuming, and why, when we eat our vegetables, there's only one thing left to do: eat them! They are good for you, and maybe something as simple as incorporating more fruits and vegetables into your diet will rid you of that groggy part of the seasonal blues. And, just in case you were wondering, here is a list of potential vegetables that are good to buy in the fall season (no promises though, remember we are in Juneau, Alaska—you can't ever have your bar set super high here when it comes to fresh produce): broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, cabbage, chard, mushrooms, potatoes, squash, spinach, and zucchini.

Healthy & Happy Eating to you!

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— F2M: A Character Questionnaire —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

On the Wednesday of the second-to-last week in October, I was jetsetting around campus from work to class to somewhere I could camp out and finish one of what felt like 27 lingering midterm projects, when I received a text from the editor of this selfsame paper. She wanted to know if I could accompany her to a meeting of the UAS drama club, S.C.R.I.P.T., and interview them about their upcoming production, *F2M*. Somewhere between chugging a 20-oz frappuccino and opening 3 separate class syllabi on my laptop, I responded in the affirmative and then forgot about it in favor of maintaining my GPA until she showed up at my door on Sunday afternoon. Fortunately, before forgetting I'd managed to sit down and whip up some interview questions. I had a template to go off of, since I'd interviewed S.C.R.I.P.T. before about their production of *The Country Club*. However, one does not wish to write the same thing twice, so I decided to mix it up by interviewing the cast in character!

As it turned out, the characters in the play had a lot to say. The first thing I asked each of them to do, was introduce themselves and their role in the story.

PARKER (*Melissa Arnold*): Well, I'm the protagonist, and Lucy is my girlfriend! This weekend I'll be meeting her mother, and I'm looking forward to that — as long as my parents don't keep trying to get in the way of me living my life.

LUCY (*Jackie Scholz*): Well, I'll be introducing my mother to my boyfriend! His famous parents are also coming into town this weekend, so I might meet them as well.

CLARENCE (*Felix Thillet*): I am Parker's father. My wife and I plan on visiting my daughter for parent's weekend — a surprise visit, you understand. She doesn't know this, but we've been hearing some stuff about certain things our daughter has been doing, and we intend to approach that situation during our visit.

ALI (*Jessika Caudy*): I am Parker's starlet mother. I live at home right now — I gave up the acting life so I could take better care of my children — but I've been thinking about getting "back in the game." However, I decided to take a break from thinking about work to go with my husband Clarence to visit our daughter on parent's weekend. I'd like to see her again, and also try to bring her back to L.A.

LINDA LOU (*Heather LaVerne*): I am Lucy's mother, and I am coming to visit her for parent's weekend at her college!

DR. SHELTON (*Maranda Clark*): I am a therapist, here to help my patients with their... issues. I'm sorry; my job prohibits giving out my patients' information.

After these introductions it became clear that Parker, a transgender college student with traditionally-minded starlet parents, was at the center of the conflict. This made me even more interested in the characters' responses to my next question: "What was one thing they were looking forward to or afraid of?"

PARKER: The one thing I'm both looking forward to and afraid of is becoming myself.

LUCY: I'm afraid of not being able to complete my big seminar project by the time the weekend is over. It's really hard, because it requires that I pick a role model for my entire life and I can't figure out what I want that to be. On the other hand, I'm really looking forward to introducing my mom and my boyfriend!

CLARENCE: I'm looking forward to putting things straight, because they are currently out of control and I need to save my daughter before she makes an irreversible mistake.

ALI: I am definitely afraid of the possible arguments that will occur between my husband and my daughter. While I'm certainly excited to see her, I worry that it won't go well.

LINDA LOU: I'm so excited for the parents' brunch, because there might be some handsome divorcee there and I might score. I will say that I'm a little afraid of my daughter's boyfriend's father — he's very daunting to be around! You know, he reminds me of a teacher I had in the 3rd grade who told me not to ask questions. But you know, ever since then I make sure to ask questions, because he was wrong.

DR. SHELTON: Well, I'm looking forward to getting to know my patients and making them feel like they aren't alone with their issues. One of my fears, I think, is that they won't get enough support outside my office, from important social networks like their family.

I nodded thoughtfully as I took all these things down on virtual paper, my fingers flying across the keyboard at speeds of mach 2. The plot, much like Cream of Wheat if made correctly, appeared to be thickening. But I couldn't let it thicken too much — also much like Cream of Wheat — or they'd give it all away. Bearing this in mind, I asked a final, safe question: "Why should people come to see the play?"

PARKER: The play is an inspirational story about throwing away your past and embracing the future, and who you want to be and who you are.



The cast of S.C.R.I.P.T.'s upcoming production, *F2M* by Patricia Wettig, sit together onstage during rehearsal.

(Photo by Chrystal Randolph)

LUCY: You should come see the play because it tackles some big community issues — namely, transgender issues — and is pertinent to the college community, especially. I think it will be an educational experience.

CLARENCE: It's going to be something genuine that can speak to people, and people can relate to a lot of the characters — whether it's Parker, Lucy, myself, or my wife.

ALI: You should come see the play because it has a lot of great characters with a lot of depth, and it's very fun watching things develop in the story! But also, I'm famous, so do you need another reason?

LINDA LOU: Because it's gonna be fun, and there's gonna be happy people, and sad people, and mad people! And when you're happy, sad, and mad, you're a person, and you're living life!

DR. SHELTON: Because it's very in-depth regarding an issue that is not normally talked about in today's society, but should be.

Satisfied with the results of the interview, I allowed the actors to break character. Felix's parting words were that he thinks *F2M* will be a great show to perform for UAS and the community, while Jessika said, "It's been really fun working with the costumes for this play! It's super modern, but everything has to be so crazy, just because you have to think of a modern college kid that's grown up in a starlet household."

In closing, I asked the director of the play, Bryan Crowder, what his experience with it had

been like so far.

BRYAN: It's been challenging, because I'm stepping into a world I don't have much experience in! It's also exciting, since I feel that not very many people have been exposed to the transgender community, and we're getting to shed some light on those experiences — mainly, how difficult it is to make the choices that members of that community have to make for their own safety and happiness. It's amazing to watch that process unfold, and stay true to what it's like for transgender people. Overall, though, it's just been amazing — the people who are playing these characters are all finding things about their characters that are true to themselves. And that's important, for actors to have that relational understanding — they need to understand what it's like to have this kind of decision before them, and what that means to the people who are playing these roles.

If the characters, director, and the tale of my intrepid investigative reporting adventure have sold you, then you're probably interested in show times and dates! *F2M* will be showing on November 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd in Hendrickson 113 (commonly known among students as "the theatre classroom"). All shows begin at 7:30 PM, and the fee is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. To the actors, I would say "break a leg" — but you know, maybe don't do that, at least not literally. College is already hard enough as it is, and as for Parker, his life seems pretty rough already. Take it easy.




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Bookstore Closure

BY DANIEL PISCOYA

For the UAS Whalesong

The UAS Juneau campus bookstore, after a seven-year stint at its current location at Auke Bay, is closing at the end of the Fall 2014 semester.

The bookstore has been serving the UAS and Auke Bay community in a number of locations, opening in its current location in 2007. As a UAS auxiliary operation, it is a “self-supporting” operation that “exists to furnish goods or services primarily...to students, faculty or staff,” according to the UA Regent’s Policies. These policies specify that “deficit situations must be avoided by all auxiliaries.” However, in the most recent fiscal year, the bookstore’s financial situation has grown increasingly grim. According to the UAS Bookstore 2013 Program Review, “Bookstore expenses exceeded revenues by \$164,000.” The review, which can be found online, goes on to state that “while this shortfall is significantly greater than years past, the pattern of insufficient revenues...has been consistent for the entire time the bookstore has occupied its current space” and “the trend lines predict a future where substantial annual losses are the norm.” Because “the UAS bookstore cannot operate at a loss” the university has chosen to close it.

This prolonged downturn in the bookstore’s financial situation is a symptom of both a growing trend of online bookstores or ebooks, but also of the store’s geographic location. The store’s location a 10 minutes’ walk off-campus was originally intended to promote “community engagement”, and has succeeded in making the bookstore “highly visible to the community and tourists”, which is listed among its strengths. However, the bookstore as an auxiliary is unable to “solicit business from persons off campus”, this location’s usefulness was a bit hamstrung. And, as the bookstore’s primary mission is to serve the UAS community specifically, the university—which has been striving to foster a geographic core-campus community—seems to have deemed it inconsistent to keep the bookstore in its current location.

However, the review also states that “changing markets and increased competition have forced even established national chains to restructure...or close altogether.” Among students, it is more common to order books online or to buy an ebook than to buy textbooks from the bookstore. This “steady decline in revenues from book sales” is one of the reasons why the bookstore’s gross profits are down to begin with. The move to its current location off campus coincided with the rise of many online bookstores in the student consciousness, which did not help the downward trend. The bookstore itself was not opposed to reducing prices for books, but simply could not compete with large online bookstores—one of the stipulations of auxiliary requirements is that “rates and pricing standards are to be set at levels adequate to fund the cost of operations.”

The store will remain open for the Fall 2014 semester, and will even have book buy-back before winter break. However, the bookstore will not reopen for the spring semester. The store will continue business online. The bookstore website will continue to offer web book listing and ordering, as well as continuing to work with financial aid vouchers. It will also offer a limited supply of gift-shop items, though not nearly as many as it does currently. This online capacity is ultimately dissatisfying for both the university and the bookstore staff. However, the hope is that this capacity will be temporary.

The fate of the building itself is still uncertain. It was originally going to become the site for medical classrooms and labs to enable UAS to offer a Pre-Nursing degree. However, these plans fell through, and the university is now considering the possibility of selling the building. The funds from selling the building would go towards the university’s hope to build a new Student Union on campus, which then could host the bookstore in it. This would both encourage the core-campus mentality and increase the store’s commerce. The bookstore’s highest financial peak was when it was incorporated into the top floor of Maurant back in the 1990s. For example, the UAA bookstore’s proximity to students has maintained that store’s financial situation excellently, and it has even seen growth in the past few years. A Student Union on the UAS Juneau campus would offer that same kind of proximity and would hopefully preserve the store for future generations.

That lofty goal, however, is a few years ahead of us yet, and in the interim, the bookstore will continue in its limited capacity online. For students, this means that last-minute book-buying is off the table, and we will have to remember to account for shipping time when ordering books. No procrastination for us! For the greater university community, this means an increasing trend towards a core-campus which will hopefully facilitate growth in the future. They say the night is darkest before the dawn.

Don’t Stop the Bus

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

Change is in the air – but if we get a strong enough fan, we might be able to stop it. You know our bus stop? The one up by Egan Library, with the flags? Next to the door you probably walk through every day if you live in the new freshman dorms?

Yeah, apparently, it might be getting put out of commission.

Bear with me; as far as I can tell, nothing is definite yet. I first heard about this somewhere in the middle of October, when I went into the student government office to make use of their Keurig and started a friendly conversation with the girl who was there at the time. She mentioned this issue offhandedly, and after I’d finished choking on my coffee I requested further information. There was not any at the time, but I have since done some investigative digging and located at least some answers regarding this situation.

First of all, however, let me clarify why this is a problem. We only have one bus stop on the whole of campus and housing combined, and it’s only for the express bus, which takes roughly 30 minutes to get from where we’re located to downtown Juneau. Assume with me, if you will, the worst-case scenario position. (Don’t worry, we won’t hold it for long.) In the event that this bus stop is decommissioned, the main issue is that there will be a solid 5- to 10-minute walk to campus from the main road. This is inconvenient, especially with Juneau’s weather – it’s either raining, snowing, or just generally kind of grayish and miserable. Also, if you work on campus and take the bus to the school, perhaps you didn’t wear walking shoes – you wore work shoes instead – and now you’ve got to tromp down the sidewalk in heels or stiff dress shoes. The alternate side of this is that maybe you catch the bus out of class to get to work or an event or literally anything else off-campus. Right now, it’s convenient – I had a friend who could leave class the moment it ended, get on the bus, and go to work. Without the bus stop, she would have had to modify her work schedule (not the most convenient thing for college students) or leave class 5-10 minutes early in order to walk all the way to a stop on Back Loop Road. One recognizes that these are first-world problems, but they are problems nonetheless, and ones that don’t have to exist if our stop stays right where it is.

Now that you are keenly aware of why this constitutes a situation, here is what I know about it so far: it is part of a transit modification plan, initially presented by the Assembly Committee of the Whole on October 27th. The two major parts of the plan that I can see impacting us are the lack of service to our current bus stop, and also that bus service will no longer run through downtown Juneau. There will be more of these meetings, and the UAS Vice Chancellor Michael Ciri has committed to having one of them be held on campus. No dates for future meetings have been set as of my knowledge at this moment in time. The thing with these meetings is that constituents (that’s us) are expected to inspect the plan being presented, then either indicate their acceptance or rejection. Being fine with a new transit plan as a whole but opposing to the lack of service at UAS is not an option. As far as I can tell, it’s a “one way or the other” thing with suggestions being out of the question. Frankly, this sucks, since there is exactly one good thing about this proposal and it’s number 2 on the list of key details about the plan (provided at the end of this article.)

Ultimately, though the situation seems grim, there is still hope! I will be keeping my eye on this, and you can as well – student government can always keep you informed, and there will likely be posters out around campus in the event that a meeting does happen here. In the meantime, hang tight and let your voice be known! I certainly don’t want to lose our bus stop, and if you don’t either, take action to keep it from happening.

TRANSIT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1. The plan does call for the elimination of service to the Egan Wing. Buses will stop at the back loop road and students and employees will walk to the campus.
2. Bus service is expected to go by UAS three times per hour, and run later hours than previously.
3. The transfer location for all routes is moving from the Nugget Mall to the skate park.
4. Bus service will no longer run through the downtown area or up Saint Ann’s in Douglas.
5. There will be bus service down Riverside.

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— The Book of Awesome —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

A surprisingly few amount of people have heard about the new animated feature *The Book of Life*. The only reason I heard about it is because I happened to stumble across an article about it while I was web surfing instead of doing homework. (Yeah, you heard me – web surfing. The internet connection in the 90s may have sucked, but at least we had cool names for it.) Frankly, I was surprised it wasn't more widely advertised; for one thing, it's produced by Guillermo del Toro, and I am willing to give anything with which he associates his name a chance at the very least. For another thing, the trailer alone is absolutely charming – the art style is very different from what we're used to seeing in today's animated features, but I think that only serves to make it even more special. Some of the best animated movies I've seen recently have been in a non-traditional style, gone overlooked by many because they don't fit the Disney/Pixar mold. Anyway, I wanted to review a new movie and it was a toss-up between this and *Ouija* – and I am infinitely glad I chose against the latter.

Let me give you some baseline information. The film follows 3 young people – 2 boys and a girl – on their respective paths through life. Wow, that sounds boring. Wait, don't go, at least let me describe them! First, we have Manolo, whose family has a long and storied history of bullfighting, whether they wanted to do it or not. Too bad all our hero wants to do is play his guitar and sing! He's also against killing the bulls, making him a failure in the eyes of his family but not in mine. (Did anyone else read *The Story of Ferdinand* when they were a kid? Because that book made me anti-bullfighting from an early age.) His counterpart is Joaquin, an orphan youth who desperately desires an impressive mustache and to walk in the footsteps of his dead father, a fearsome defender of the people.

Both boys yearn after the heart of Maria, who is, if you'll pardon my French, a boss-ass bitch.

In fact, all of the women in this film are pretty boss. The reason these 3 children are even important in the first place is because two gods of the Mexican underworld make a bet on them. Xibalba is the broody raven-winged ruler of the Land of the Forgotten, an unpleasant place people go when there is no one left to remember them after they die. It's green and gray, and everyone just sort of moans until they vaporize into ashes, never to be seen again. He is married to perhaps the most majestic woman to ever grace the face of the silver screen; her name is La Muerte, and she reigns over the Land of the Remembered. This is like the real world, only 500 times better. It's bright and colorful, everyone there has the most fantastic sombreros in the world. It's ruled by La Muerte, a skull-faced goddess with the biggest sombrero of them all. It's huge. Did I mention it has lit candles on it? Because it does. Xibalba complains of being tired of ruling Emo Central and talks his wife into making a bet: if Joaquin ends up marrying Maria (who is fearless, noble and has better eye-liner game than is probably possible in reality), then Xibalba wins the bet and gets to rule the Land of the Remembered (aka Party Central). If, however, Manolo wins Maria's heart, then Xibalba has to quit meddling in the affairs of man.

Sounds like a stereotypical love triangle story, right? That's what I thought, but I would have to argue against it simply because the two lead male characters are almost side notes in comparison to everything else going on in the film. For one thing, this movie had girl power going on strong: La Muerte took absolutely no crap from anyone and had a nasty temper streak, but she also possessed an on-point makeup game and liked to mack on her skeezy green husband. I'll also point out that she also had no qualms about eyeing up Manolo in the bullfighting

ring. Meanwhile, Maria was sent off at an early age to learn how to become a "proper lady" and certainly looked the part when she returned. However, while she knew how to flutter her fan and had hips of whose truthfulness Shakira would have been proud, she also knew fencing and jujitsu. In fact, when Manolo and Joaquin actually started fighting over her – like, with swords – she stepped in and beat them apart. It was quite a refreshing change to see a romantic interest refuse to take, or be forced into, a 3rd-party observer state who served as the spoils of the victor.

That was another interesting thing that I noticed about this movie – Manolo, Joaquin, and Maria are friends since childhood, and this never stops being a fact. Even as young adults who recognize their mutual attraction for Maria, Manolo and Joaquin are still friends who hang out and support each other in the face of pressure from other grown-ups. What's even better is that when one of the boys realizes he's overstepping his bounds in pursuit of Maria's hand, he backs off – even the words "now is not the time" are stated. And when she expresses a lack of interest in him as a romantic partner, he does not discard their entire relationship on the premise of being "friendzoned" – instead, he accepts it (though admittedly unwillingly) and supports her relationship with their other friend. That's awesome and refreshing to see, in a culture where our romantic movies often discard previously existing close friendships in favor of pursuing the main couples' relationship.

Speaking of culture, that's the other point I wanted to address – this movie is about Mexicans. It takes place in a town called San Angel in Mexico and centers around a specifically Mexican holiday: the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos). Not only does the film go to the trouble of explaining what this holiday is about and what

it means to the people who celebrate it, it's also co-written and directed by a Mexican man, and features several Mexican voice actors as lead characters! I think it adds to the film's authenticity by having people who grew up in the culture it's discussing so heavily involved in it. What's more, this film teaches you about the Day of the Dead in a fun, exciting way without being patronizing (an unfortunate, if unintended, effect of many films dealing with different cultures) or treating the material lightly (being too cavalier or brushing it off). For example, I've often heard the argument that wearing Day of the Dead sugar skull costumes for Halloween is considered disrespectful; in explaining the purpose of the holiday, which is to celebrate and remember those who are dead, *The Book of Life* explained to me why that argument is made. I imagine that the non-Mexican equivalent would be slapping on masks of your dead friends and family members. This movie was just a really fun and interesting way to explore and describe the holiday in a culturally respectful manner, and I appreciated that!

Ultimately, I would argue that this movie is definitely worth the watch – my final grade is an 8 out of 10, with at least 3 of those points given exclusively to La Muerte. One point is missing because while it was great, the film did get kind of cheesy in places ("Your greatest fear wasn't bullfighting, Manolo. Your greatest fear was being yourself"), and another because a couple of the songs were mariachi remixes of songs that have been out for a while already. These are minor nitpicks, though, and understandable if we look at the target audience of the film, which is age 7 and up.

I don't know if it will still be in theaters by the time this issue of the *Whalesong* comes out, but if it is, it's definitely worth a watch! If nothing else, you will have fun, and that's something everybody needs as finals slowly inch closer. They're coming, guys. Watch cartoons while you can.

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR THE WHALESONG?

Send your articles to us at whalesong@uas.alaska.edu and you could be published in the next issue of the school's newspaper!

— A Good Alternative to Generic Pumpkin Pie —

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF

For the UAS Whalesong

Think about these words for a second: Fall. October. November. What do you think of when these words go through your mind? Food is probably one of the things that pop into your thoughts, and maybe pumpkin of sorts? I feel like pumpkin is a very controversial discussion with some people. Some love it, some hate it, and there are those people who like pumpkin but only in pumpkin pie. I was curious to learn some interesting facts about pumpkin, so I took the liberty to look some up—conveniently at www.pumpkin-patch.com.

- Pumpkins are grown all over the world, on every continent except Antarctica.

- The pumpkin capital of the world is Morton, Illinois. They are also known for producing 90-95% of America's processed pumpkin.

- The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to cook.

- In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.

- Pumpkins are 90 percent water.

Because it's the season of your eyes being notoriously bigger than your stomach, I thought that it would only be fitting to do some kind of recipe for you all. Thanks to Pinterest, I found just the thing: Chocolate Pumpkin Bars!



Chocolate Pumpkin Bars

PREP: 15 min. BAKE: 45 min.

Chocolate layer:

2 c. all purpose flour
2/3 c. sugar
1 c. cocoa
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 egg
3/4 c. melted butter

Frosting:

16 oz. of Cool Whip
1/8 tsp. cinnamon

Pumpkin layer:

8 oz. of Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
1/2 c. brown sugar
3 eggs
15 oz. pumpkin puree
3.4 oz. JELLO Pumpkin Pie Flavored Instant Pudding Mix*

**If you cannot find this flavor, use 3.4 oz. JELLO Vanilla Flavored Instant Pudding mix, 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice, and 1/2 tsp. cinnamon. You can adjust spices to your taste.*

I saw the recipe and thought that it was out of the ordinary, but also simple and manageable for anyone to make.

First, line a 13 by 9 inch pan with parchment paper, letting there be 1 inch excess hang off the edges, or grease with cooking spray (ex: PAM) and preheat your oven to 350°. Mix all of the chocolate layer ingredients, except the butter in a mixer. On low speed, slowly incorporate the melted butter till mixed thoroughly (should resemble crumbly cookie dough). Take the chocolate layer mixture and firmly press it into the bottom of your pan. Wash out the mixing bowl, then whip the cream cheese a little by itself, slowly combining all of the pumpkin layer ingredients on low speed until blended. Pour and evenly spread over the top of your chocolate layer.

Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until you can insert a toothpick into the dish and pull it out clean. After it's done baking, be sure to cool it completely. Then jump in there, spread it with cool whip and dust with cinnamon for the finishing touches, before you cut and serve.

When I made this, it took a little longer to bake—I ended up having to leave it in the oven for about an hour till the pumpkin was set up enough. I let the dish cool off for a couple hours and refrigerated it overnight, then frosted it. The people who ended up eating this said that it turned out great, so I'd definitely suggest trying out this recipe for the upcoming holiday and seeing how it turns out for you! Happy Autumn & Happy Baking to you all!

BIELEFELD: BEFORE & AFTER

(Continued from page 4)

I was so happy that I'd chosen to go for two semesters. I got to see Bielefeld in every season! The language, which I was so intimidated by at first, went from being a struggle to a pleasant challenge, to a way of expressing myself. My understanding is much better than my speaking ability, and it was amazing to watch everything around me really come to life as I started to understand what was going on. By the end of the year, it felt so good to be able to hold longer conversations in German. The classes I took were fantastic! I loved my teachers and the subjects. The course load was different, but not necessarily harder. My classes were just more independent. I wouldn't say the social norms

November 10 – 23, 2014

were hard to adjust to, but I remember feeling weird in class because the German students simply stuck to their social groups and friends, and it took about a month to get to know them enough to have a conversation. I had a German language tandem partner who was amazing and really helped me learn German and get to know German culture! I jumped out of my comfort zone and took a hip-hop dance class, which helped me make friends outside of class and discover something I didn't know I liked. My living situation was great: only a 2 minute walk from the university and I got to stay with other international exchange students, who became my family and friends. I gained the language and cultural experience I had been wanting, and even more than I expected by travelling! I got to travel to the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary,

Poland, Croatia, and Belgium!

When I returned, Marsha had me take another little survey about the experience. One of the questions on it was, "What was the most meaningful thing you learned through your participation?" I sat and stared at the question for a while before I could answer. How do I put such a thing into words?

The most meaningful thing I learned through my participation is a willingness to be challenged. I learned to accept new challenges as they arose. A foreign language, country, lifestyle, and university are all challenging in their own way, but I learned that enjoying the challenge made it all easier. It's a journey into the unknown and unexpected, and overcoming a challenge is satisfying and fulfilling. Along these lines, I learned that a new experience/challenge can be most powerful when shared.

The friendships I made were built on the common ground of being foreign and learning from each other in the classroom and outside of it are my most valued memories. I also built friendships among Germans by being open to their help and culture. However, I also grew on an individual level by overcoming challenges. I remember being so scared of taking the tram in Bielefeld at first (what if I got lost?! How would I ask for help?!) and then contrasting that with my feelings of confidence and excitement when I traveled to Amsterdam one weekend by myself, completely free from anxiety. I think that once you learn how to be a foreigner in another country, you can be a more open-minded citizen of your own country. I learned that if I'm willing to push outside of my comfort zone and be challenged, then the reward will be far greater than any difficulty I faced.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

OFF CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

SNOvember Film Series: Days of My Youth, 7 p.m., The Gold Town Nickelodeon. *Days of My Youth* is a new film that examines every skier's lifelong affinity for the sport. Narrated to the prolific readings of Alan Watts, this film exposes the many joys and occasional struggles associated with a lifestyle built around skiing. Filmed over two years using state of the art techniques and technologies, this movie offers a unique glimpse into the journey of self-discovery that every skier experiences. The team, along with an intimate cast of skiing's modern day superstars, have looked through the lens in a new way to capture moments that redefine what is possible on skis. Watch as these premier athletes explore the globe and escape to mountainous playgrounds to challenge their innermost hopes and fears. *Days of My Youth* reminds us of that special

feeling of our very first time on skis, and proves that skiing can keep you feeling young for a lifetime.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Community Gaming Night, 5:30 p.m., Udder Culture. Shouldn't Juneau have a community gaming group? Of course! Now we do! This is an open video game group that gets together every week at Udder Culture. We play a variety of video games and are open to playing on any platform (Wii, PS3, PS4, Xbox360, Xbox One, etc.). Be sure to stop by and enjoy great food and company at the Udder Culture as well! All ages are welcome! (If you are a minor you will need to get a parent's permission to play, because we play a lot of games rated "M") Contact Greg Frank for more information at greg.r.frank@gmail.com.

Chicago, 7:30 p.m., Perseverance Theatre. The longest running American musical on Broadway (and still running!), *Chicago* is com-

ing to Juneau this fall! Winner of every award available, *Chicago* is, arguably, the greatest jazz and dance musical of all time! It's the 1920s, prohibition is in full swing, and the world is full of dance hall girls, outlaws, and all that jazz! It's a story of fame, fortune, and murder! Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly are accused of murder, and in the hands of their lawyer Billy Flynn, they might not only get away with it, but they may even become famous for it! With one show-stopping song after the next, *Chicago* is sure to dazzle this fall! Tickets (\$16-\$35) are available at the Perseverance Theatre Box Office at 907-463-TIXS, at Hearthside Books locations, at the Juneau Arts & Culture Center and online through Vendini Tickets. For more information call 907-364-2421.

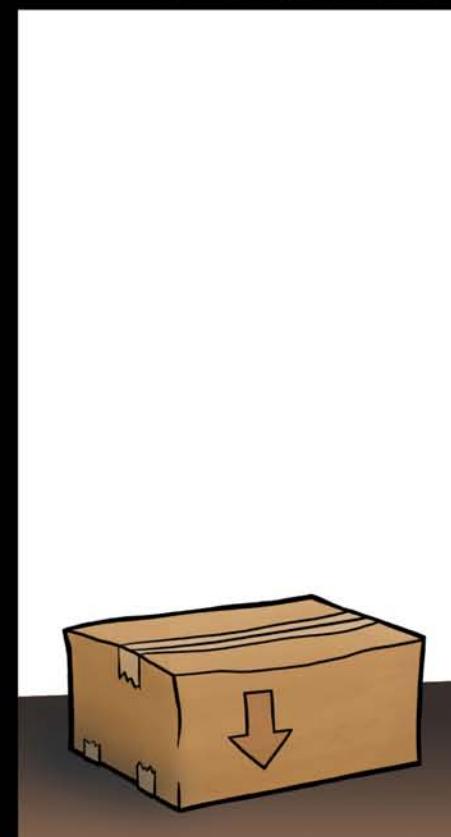
The Winter's Tale, 7:30 p.m., McPhetres Hall. Love changes everything... *The Winter's Tale*, by William Shakespeare, is a wonderful tale of family, passion, insecurity, sacrifice, love, second chances, and the hope that exists in the possibility

of forgiveness. For more information, call 907-500-3344.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

Chicago, 7:30 p.m., Perseverance Theatre. The longest running American musical on Broadway (and still running!), *Chicago* is coming to Juneau this fall! Winner of every award available, *Chicago* is, arguably, the greatest jazz and dance musical of all time! It's the 1920s, prohibition is in full swing, and the world is full of dance hall girls, outlaws, and all that jazz! It's a story of fame, fortune, and murder! Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly are accused of murder, and in the hands of their lawyer Billy Flynn, they might not only get away with it, but they may even become famous for it! With one show-stopping song after the next, *Chicago* is sure to dazzle this fall! Tickets (\$16-\$35) are available at the Perseverance Theatre Box Office at 907-463-TIXS, at Hearthside Books locations, at the Juneau Arts & Culture Center and online through Vendini Tickets. For more information call 907-364-2421.

Alaska Robotics



The Box Arrives

CAMPUS CALENDAR

ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, NOV. 10

Spring 2015 Registration Begins, All Day, UAS. Spring registration for program students begins today. For class information view the schedule website.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part Salsa, part dance, all fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

Dodgeball, 8 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast and it's fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

Open Climb, 6:30 p.m., Recreation Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

Biology Career Night & Pizza Social, 5:30 p.m., Anderson Building. Come and meet the UAS Faculty and other Biology students and representatives from ADFG, NOAA, Student Conservation Association and UAS Career Services. Learn about internships, jobs and careers available to you. More importantly, learn how to apply for these positions! For more information, send an email to cabergstrom@uas.alaska.edu.

Etiquette & Networking Dinner, 6 p.m., Glacier View Room. Enjoy a multiple-course meal while practicing etiquette skills and learning the art of mixing and mingling. Learn the proper table manners that you may have missed as a kid – important skills for lunch interviews, impressing your date, dinner at the boss's house, formal affairs, and more! FREE for SAA Members (nonmembers not able to attend.) RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - call November 10 – 23, 2014

the Alumni Office at 796-6569 to reserve your spot! Seating Limited to 25 students (preference given to members who have not attended in the past). For more information, send an email to alumni@uas.alaska.edu.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part Salsa, part dance, all fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

UAS 4th Annual Native Film Series, 5:30 p.m., Recreation Center. UAS invites you to the 4th Annual Native film series! The agenda for the evening: 5:30-6 language with Lance, 6-7:30 Native film, and 7:30-8:30 film discussion. Gunalcheesh! Qu yana! Haw'aa! Doyk'shn! Mahalo! Thank you to our sponsors: PITAAS, UAS Recreation Center, AK Native Studies Faculty, and Wooch.Een. For more information, call 796-6454 or send an email to nrsc@uas.alaska.edu.

Open Climb, 6:30 p.m., Recreation Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

Food Sovereignty Fridays, 1 p.m., Mourant Building. The Native and Rural Student Center -NRSC invites UAS Students, Staff, and Faculty to stop by and sample some of the most amazing food harvested from around our wonderful state! NRSC Staff and Guests will share the significance and process of harvesting! See you at the NRSC! For more information, call 796-6454 or send an email to nrsc@uas.alaska.edu.

Fall 2014 Nursing Informational Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Glacier View Room. The UAA School of Nursing has made significant changes to both the AAS RN and BS RN nursing admission and ranking process. All students interested in applying to the UAA School of Nursing are encouraged to attend

this meeting. For more information, send an email to ewilliams2@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6128.

Evening at Egan, 7 p.m., Egan Lecture Hall. The World of Personal Finance. Presented by Anselm Staack, Associate Professor of Accounting. From "cradle to grave", personal finance affects the life of every Alaskan. A broad range of topics will be discussed: Financial and tax planning, proper credit card use, consumer borrowing, home purchases and mortgages, auto purchases, life-health-property insurance, managing your investments, retirement, savings, long-term care, aging issues, and estate planning.

F2M, 7:30 p.m., Hendrickson Building, Room 113. The UAS drama club, S.C.R.I.P.T, presents *F2M* written by Patricia Wettig, and directed by Bryan Crowder. The admission fee is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. For more information call 796-6517 or send an email to jypres@uas.alaska.edu.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

REC Closure, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC Center will be closed for the joint use by the Alaska Army National Guard. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

F2M, 7:30 p.m., Hendrickson Building, Room 113. The UAS drama club, S.C.R.I.P.T, presents *F2M* written by Patricia Wettig, and directed by Bryan Crowder. The admission fee is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. For more information call 796-6517 or send an email to jypres@uas.alaska.edu.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

REC Closure, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC Center will be closed for the joint use by the Alaska Army National Guard. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

F2M, 7:30 p.m., Hendrickson Building, Room 113. The UAS drama club, S.C.R.I.P.T, presents *F2M* written by Patricia Wettig, and directed by Bryan Crowder. The admission fee

is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. For more information call 796-6517 or send an email to jypres@uas.alaska.edu.

MONDAY, NOV. 17

International Education Week, 11 a.m., Mourant Building. Become more of a global citizen and educate yourself about our world! For more information send an email to exchanges@uas.alaska.edu or call the Exchanges and Study Abroad Office at 796-6455.

National Student Exchange & Study Abroad Information Sessions, 11 a.m., Spike's Cafe. Learn about all your Exchange & Study Abroad opportunities at UAS, both national and international! Check it out! For more information, send an email to exchanges@uas.alaska.edu or call the Exchanges and Study Abroad Office at 796-6455.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Part Salsa, part dance, all fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

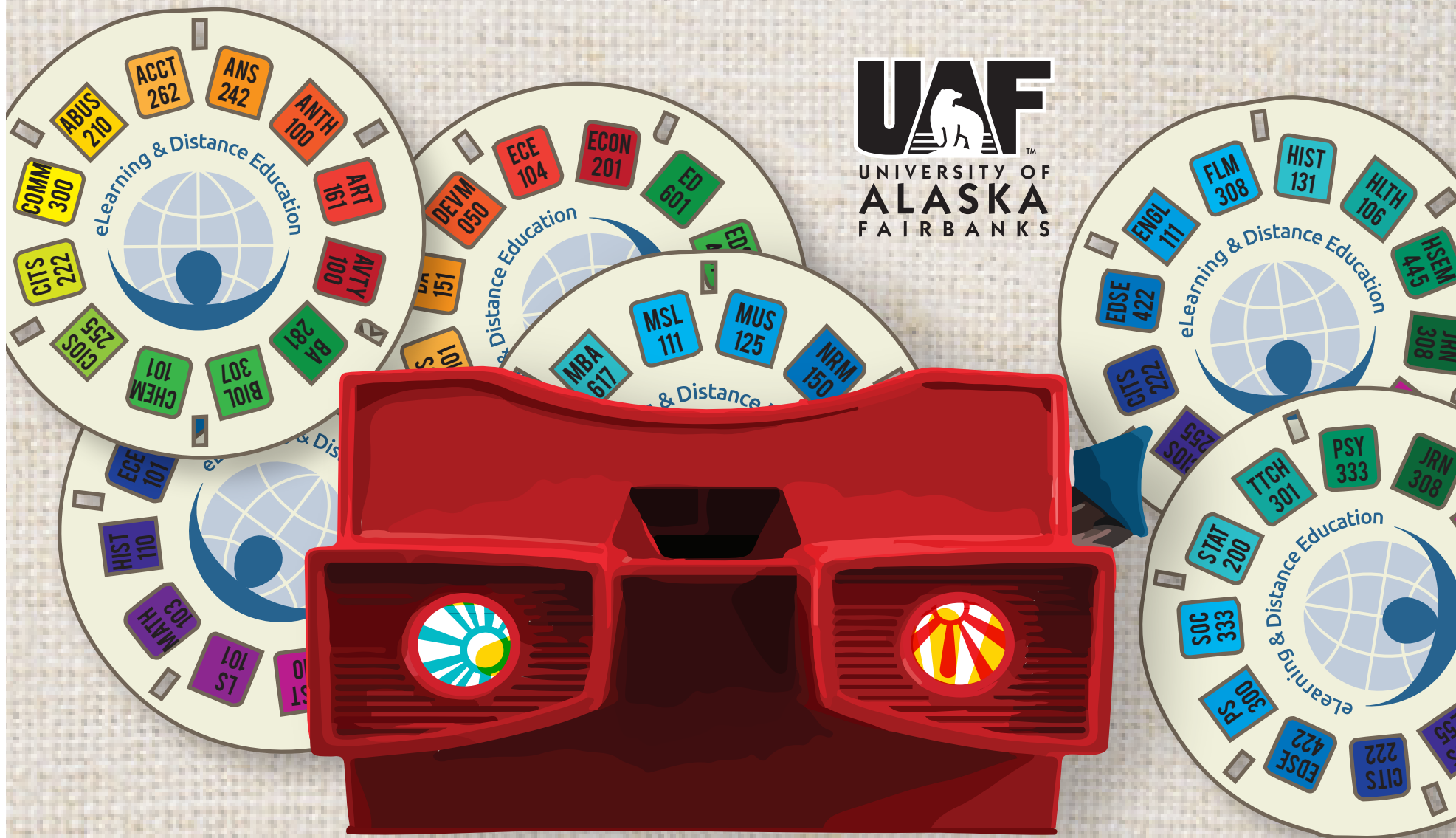
Dodgeball, 8 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast and it's fun! For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18

International Education Week, 11 a.m., Mourant Building. Become more of a global citizen and educate yourself about our world! For more information send an email to exchanges@uas.alaska.edu or call the Exchanges and Study Abroad Office at 796-6455.

Open Climb, 6:30 p.m., Recreation Center. If you are looking for something different to do, try open rock climbing at the REC. Free climb or on belay it's a great time. Jam to our house audio system as you traverse the wall. All climbing equipment is available for use. For more information, send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6544.

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